

Message Text

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17

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EUR-12 /073 W

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R 250225Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2642

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1326

D/PW FOR HENDERSON

GENEVA FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: DEAN/SHARMAN INCIDENT

REF: DAO VIENTIANE MSG DTG 191020Z FEB 75, SUBJECT: PROBABLE
SIGHTING OF SHARMAN/DEAN (NOTAL)

1. BANGKOK WORLD, FEBRUARY 22, CARRIED UPI INTERVIEW WITH KAMMOUI (CITED PARA D REFTEL AS MUI) WHO TOLD REPORTER THAT HE HAD ACTED AS INTERPRETER DURING DEAN/SHARMAN INTERROGATION IN KHAM KEUT SHORTLY AFTER THEIR CAPTURE IN SEPTEMBER 1974. MAJOR PORTION OF INTERVIEW WITH KAMMOUI DESCRIBES EVENTS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED; HOWEVER, TWO STATEMENTS BY KAMMOUI CONTAIN SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT AND NEW INFORMATION, AND ARE QUOTED AS THEY APPEARED IN BANGKOK WORLD.

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2. QUOTE: KAMMOUI SAID ON DECEMBER 1 DEAN AND SHARMAN WERE

APPARENTLY TAKEN TO PATHET LAO CAPITAL OF SAM NEUA ABOUT 200 MILES NORTHEAST OF HERE (VIENTIANE) BY TRUCK. AT ONE POINT, KAMMOUI SAID THE PATHET LAO TRIED TO RELEASE SHARMAN BUT THE YOUNG AUSTRALIAN REFUSED TO BE FREED WITHOUT DEAN. 'WE CAME TOGETHER AND WE WILL STAY TOGETHER,' KAMMOUI QUOTED SHARMAN AS SAYING. 'IF YOU WANT TO RELEASE US, RELEASE US BOTH.' UNQUOTE.

3. DAO VIENTIANE HAS LEARNED THAT UPI STRINGER PHON CHANTHARATH, WHO IS ALSO EDITOR OF VIENTIANE DAILY, XAT LAO, MET WITH MR-V COMMANDER GENERAL THONG LIT MORNING OF FEBRUARY 21 AND RECEIVED PERMISSION TO INTERVIEW KAMMOUI (MUI). DAO INVESTIGATION (REPORTED REFTEL) CONTINUES AND DETAILED REPORT WILL BE FORTHCOMING BY FEBRUARY 28. DAO PREFERS TO AWAIT COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATION BEFORE COMMENTING ON APPARENT NEW ELEMENT IN MUI'S INTERVIEW, I.E., THAT SHARMAN REFUSED OFFER OF RELEASE FOR HIMSELF ONLY, OR ON EVIDENT DISCREPANCY IN DATE OF DEAN/SHARMAN MOVEMENT TOWARD DRV BORDER (DECEMBER 1, VERSUS MID-DECEMBER DATE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY BY OTHER SOURCES.)

4. BANGKOK POST, FEBRUARY 22, HAS ARTICLE ON INTERVIEW WITH JOY HOOPER, SHARMAN'S FIANCEE. INTERVIEW WAS BROAD BRUSH REVIEW OF FACTS CONCERNING DEAN/SHARMAN ARREST/DETENTION, EFFORTS EMBASSIES HAVE EXERTED ON BEHALF OF TWO YOUTHS SINCE NOVEMBER, AND HER ATTEMPTS TO SEE PATHET LAO REPRESENTATIVES. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH STATEMENT THAT SHE IS HOPEFUL HER STORY WILL BE HEARD BY THE PRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA. COMMENT: PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE FROM VIENTIANE MISS HOOPER TOLD EMBOFF THAT SHE INTENDED TO SEEK FAMILY AND PRESS SUPPORT IN CONTINUED EFFORT TO AROUSE GREATER INTEREST AND ACTION ON PART OF GOA. END COMMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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